

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing ~~1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid~~ 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid comprising initiating ~~[[the]] a~~ culture of 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid producing bacteria belonging to propionic acid bacteria under anaerobic conditions and culturing the bacteria under aeration into ~~[[the]] a~~ medium ~~[[when]]~~ wherein the concentration of a carbon source in the medium is 3.5% by mass or less.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the medium comprises 4 to 8% by mass of the carbon source.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the anaerobic conditions are conditions under nitrogen gas or carbon dioxide gas atmosphere.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for producing ~~1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid~~ 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, comprising initiating ~~[[the]] a~~ culture of 1,4-dihydroxy-2-naphthoic acid producing bacteria belonging to propionic acid bacteria under anaerobic conditions, culturing the bacteria under aeration into a medium ~~[[when]]~~ wherein the concentration of a carbon source in the medium is 3.5% by mass or less, adding the carbon source to the obtained culture and preserving the culture at 3 to 20°C under weak alkaline conditions.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 7, wherein the medium comprises 4 to 8% by mass of the carbon source.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the anaerobic conditions are conditions under nitrogen gas or carbon dioxide gas atmosphere.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the amount of carbon source added to the culture is such that a concentration of the carbon source in the culture is 0.2 to 3% by mass.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the culture is preserved at pH 7 to 9 at 3 to 20°C for 1 to 3 weeks.

Claims 12-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (New): The process according to claim 8, wherein the amount of carbon source added to the culture is such that a concentration of the carbon source in the culture is 0.2 to 3% by mass.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the amount of carbon source added to the culture is such that a concentration of the carbon source in the culture is 0.2 to 3% by mass.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to claim 8, wherein the culture is preserved at pH 7 to 9 at 3 to 20°C for 1 to 3 weeks.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to claim 9, wherein the culture is preserved at pH 7 to 9 at 3 to 20°C for 1 to 3 weeks.